

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14950 221647Z

55

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 012077

O 221523Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9015

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14950

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SPASO HOUSE WALK-IN: SOVIET PROTEST NOTE

REF: MOSCOW 13311

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE PROTESTING ITS HANDLING
OF THE SPASO HOUSE WALK-IN. NOTE RECEIVED IN ROUTINE MFA
MAIL RUN EVENINRVOF SEPTEMBER 21. TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT.

NO. 60 O S S H A.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS FINDS IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE
FOLLOWING TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DURING THE NIGHT OF 22 AUGUST OF THIS YEAR, SOVIET CITIZEN
G. V. KOPYTOV, WHO WAS CONVICTED ON 17 AUGUST 1976 BY
THE PEOPLE'S COURT OF THE KIYEV RAYON OF THE CITY OF
MOSCOW FOR HOOLIGANISM AND WHO ESCAPED FROM CUSTODY,
ENTERED THE TERRITORY OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE U.S.
AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THE BEGINNING AT 0700 ON THE
MORNING OF 22 AUGUST THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPEATEDLY COMMUNICATED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY ITS DEMAND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 14950 221647Z

THAT G. V. KOPYTOV, WHO WAS BEING SOUGHT BY ORGANS OF THE

MILITIA, BE HANDED OVER, THE AMERICAN SIDE UNDER VARIOUS INVENTED PRETEXTS EVADED CARRYING OUT THIS DEMAND FOR MANY HOURS, EVEN WHILE ADMITTING THAT A SOVIET CITIZEN WAS ACTUALLY PRESENT ON THE TERRITORY OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR. KOPYTOV WAS RELEASED ONLY AT 1320 ON 22 AUGUST.

IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT DURING THE NIGHT AND FIRST PART OF THE DAY OF 22 AUGUST, KOPYTOV WAS SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE INTERROGATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELICITING INFORMATION OF AN INTELLIGENCE NATURE, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. ESPECIALLY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERROGATION WERE FIRST SECRETARIES BELOUSOVITCH AND PRESEL AND THE EMBASSY'S MILITARY ATTACHE VERNON.

KOPYTOV WAS PERSISTENTLY QUESTIONED CONCERNING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES LOCATED ON THOSE PARTS OF THE USSR WHERE HE HAD OCCASION TO LIVE AND WORK. DURING THIS INTERROGATION MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DEMANDED THAT HE SHOW THE LOCATION OF THESE INSTALLATIONS ON MAPS THEY ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY MODELS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM PHOTOGRAPHS AND MANUALS IN THEIR POSSESSION. DURING A PERIOD OF MANY HOURS KOPYTOV WAS NOT ALLOWED TO REST AND WAS GIVEN INJECTIONS. FINALLY, BEFORE BEING RELEASED, HE WAS INDUCED TO DRINK A LARGE QUANTITY OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATES TO THE U.S. EMBASSY ITS PROTEST IN CONNECTION WITH THE DETENTION OF A SOVIET CITIZEN ON THE TERRITORY OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, WHO WAS BEING SOUGHT BY ORGANS OF THE MILITIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME; THE INTERROGATION OF AN INTELLIGENCE NATURE TO WHICH HE WAS SUBJECTED; AND THE EMPLOYMENT ON HIS PERSON OF INHUMANE MEASURES OF COERCION. THE MINISTRY EXPECTS MEMBERS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH NORMS OF BEHAVIOR REQUIRED OF THEM BY THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS, AND IN THE FUTURE NOT TO ENGAGE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 14950 221647Z

ANY ACTS CONTRAVENING THIS STATUS.

MOSCOW 21 SEPTEMBER 1976. END TEXT

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO SEND NOTE IN RESPONSE TO MFA'S NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGIN TEXT.

THE EMBASSY REFERS TO NOTE NUMBER 60/ O S SH A OF THE MINISTRY AND FINDS IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT TO THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON AUGUST 22.

AN INEBRIATED SOVIET CITIZEN ENTERED THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR BY UNKNOWN MEANS. WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE RESIDENCE, HE WAS IN A HIGHLY AGITATED AND INCOHERENT STATE. WHEN HIS PRESENCE WAS DISCOVERED, EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO CALM HIM, TO DETERMINE HIS REASONS FOR ENTERING, AND TO PERSUADE HIM TO LEAVE. GIVEN HIS INITIAL INCOHERENCE AND AGITATION, THIS NECESSARILY TOOK SOME TIME, BUT HE WAS THROUGHOUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DEPART IMMEDIATELY, AND ANY DELAY IN HIS DEPARTURE WAS CAUSED NOT BY THE ACTIONS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS BUT BY HIS OWN REFUSAL TO FOLLOW THEIR ADVICE. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE REJECTS CATEGORICALLY ANY ACCUSATIONS OF IMPROPER BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT REFERRED TO IN THE MINISTRY'S NOTE, THE EMBASSY HAS THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE INADMISSIBLE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF THE MILITIA AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS.

ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 22 UNIFORMED MILITIAMEN STOPPED CARS BELONGING TO MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY AS THEY WERE LEAVING SPASO HOUSE AT THE CONCLUSION OF CHURCH SERVICES. WHILE THESE CARS WERE STOPPED, MILITIAMEN INSISTED THAT THE DRIVERS OPEN THE TRUNKS. THE MILITIAMEN THEN LOOKED INSIDE. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS DURING THE MORNING OF AUGUST 22, CARS BELONGING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 14950 221647Z

TO MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WERE DETAINED AS THEY WERE LEAVING SPASO HOUSE BY THESE SAME MILITIAMEN WHO SUBJECTED THE INTERIORS OF THE CARS TO VISUAL SEARCHES. SUCH ACTIVITY IS, OF COURSE, CONTRARY TO NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE AND IS UNACCEPTABLE.

SIMILARLY, ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THAT MORNING, AN EMBASSY OFFICER SEEKING TO ENTER SPASO HOUSE IN HIS PRIVATE CAR WAS DETAINED BY MILITIAMEN WHO REFUSED TO ALLOW HIM TO ENTER. IT IS MANIFESTLY UNACCEPTABLE THAT MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BE HINDERED IN THEIR ACCESS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

THE EMBASSY MUST ALSO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY THE OVERBEARING MANNER ADOPTED BY MEMBERS OF

THE MINISTRY'S PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT DURING THE INCIDENT TO WHICH THE MINISTRY'S NOTE REFERS. THE EMBASSY WISHES IN PARTICULAR TO PROTEST THE TONE TAKEN BY ONE OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY'S PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, NOTABLY HIS ASSERTION THAT THE EMBASSY'S DUTY OFFICER WAS "NOT COMPETENT" TO ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS, AND TO THE PREEMPTORY FASHION IN WHICH UNJUSTIFIABLE DEMANDS WERE MADE IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER, WHICH AROSE BEYOND THE CONTROL OR DESIRE OF THE EMBASSY.

THE ACTIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS SOUGHT BY BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS, AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE MINISTRY WILL BRING THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF SUCH CONDUCT TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE INVOLVED AND TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT ITS REPETITION IN THE FUTURE.

END TEXT.

MATLOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL ASYLUM, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW14950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760358-0004
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760932/aaaabbbpb.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 13311
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPASO HOUSE WALK-IN: SOVIET PROTEST NOTE
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PFOR, UR, US, (KOPYTOV, GENNADIY VIKTOROVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006